

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 605-612 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-612 new)

8 Sec. 605-612. Trade meetings. To assist Illinois
9 businesses to connect with their trade offices, the Department
10 may, subject to appropriation, establish, at least annually,
11 trade meetings in areas of the State where an international
12 business center is located. The trade meetings shall sponsor
13 trade shows and trade seminars to assist small to medium-sized
14 businesses to work in the global marketplace and, in addition,
15 to attract new jobs through foreign investment in the area.

16 For purposes of this Section, "international business
17 center" means any not-for-profit organization, including a
18 federal, State, or local organization or private organization,
19 that: (i) focuses on helping Illinois business take advantage
20 of global business opportunities, (ii) sponsors and provides
21 educational workshops, trade missions, and networking events
22 designed to help Illinois companies develop and expand business
23 strategies in a global environment, (iii) works with the
24 Department to assist businesses in promoting their services,
25 and (iv) helps local and regional businesses to expand and
26 compete in the global marketplace.

27 The Department shall serve as an advisor to international
28 business centers and shall assist them in the promotion of
29 their services in order to promote a stronger business
30 community and increase the workforce in Illinois. The
31 assistance shall include facilitating trade shows and meetings
32 within international business centers to help local and

1 regional firms take advantage of global opportunities and
2 become aware of foreign investment opportunities.